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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1957

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Your letter of May 28, 1957, and the enclosed copies of the Fourth Annual Report of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications have been noted and discussed with interest in the Department. The importance of the procurement of foreign publications by the Foreign Service on behalf of the Department and other agencies of the U. S. Government is, of course, well recognized. I know that the success of the U. S. intelligence program depends in large measure upon the expeditious procurement of foreign publications and the continued exploitation of available sources of material published abroad.

The responsible officials of the Department share my views and, as you know, have been alert to effect all possible improvements in the publications procurement program within budgetary limitations. The task has become additionally troublesome because of the restrictions imposed upon us behind the Iron Curtain and the difficulty of conducting this type of operation in many other areas of the world in which there prevail internal conditions of strife. I am informed that State Department officials are in daily touch with representatives of the CIA and that jointly they have been exploring and developing ways and means of overcoming these problems.

The Department's budgetary planning regularly takes into consideration the need to cope with the larger quantities of published materials which are becoming available from rapidly developing printing facilities in all parts of the world. As you are aware, there are now seven full-time Procurement Officers

posted in

The Honorable

Allen W. Dulles,

Director of Central Intelligence.

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posted in Berlin, London, Paris, Moscow, Delhi, Hong Kong and Tokyo. In addition, Foreign Service Officers in over 30 other posts are participating on a part-time basis in the program. A position at Cairo has been authorized [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] London and Cairo represent an increase of two full-time publications procurement officer positions since 1956. The Tokyo position is also a fairly recent increase. Moreover, despite the chronic staff shortage in Moscow, a full-time American clerical assistant there has been assigned to publications procurement work. This assistance has enabled the Publications Procurement Officer (PPO) to embark upon a more extensive travel program within the U.S.S.R.

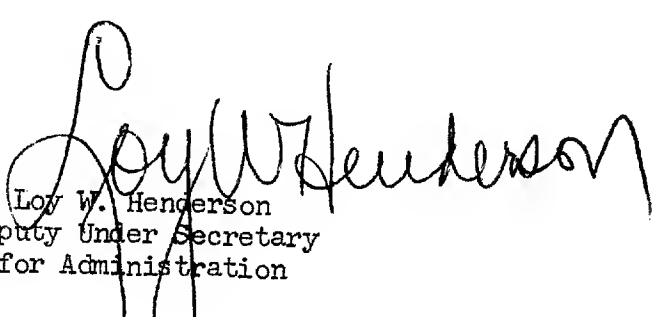
The Department had hoped in Fiscal Year 1958 to be able to further strengthen the publications procurement effort by the assignment of an assistant PPO to Moscow, and a PPO to Beirut, together with appropriate clerical support. However, unfortunately the reduction in our appropriations for Fiscal Year 1958 will not permit us to provide these increases.

With respect to Fiscal Year 1959, we have not yet been granted a final ceiling for our appropriation requests. We hope, in Fiscal Year 1959, to be able to ask not only for the positions in Moscow and Beirut previously mentioned but, in addition, for positions in Singapore, Belgrade, Stockholm, and Buenos Aires. We will include as many of these as the ceiling finally allocated to us permits.

The approval of our requests, as you well understand, depends upon the Bureau of the Budget and Congress. We cannot now predict the results, but you may be assured that the intelligence collection program will receive an appropriate priority in the Department's fund allocation plans.

I would like to express my appreciation to you for your understanding of this important problem and for your offer of assistance. The responsible officers of the Department have been instructed to work closely with the CIA in this matter. I trust that the problems you raise can be resolved to our mutual satisfaction within the framework of the present system.

Sincerely yours,


Loy W. Henderson
Deputy Under Secretary
for Administration